



# Rockville Reports

APRIL 2020 • VOL. 66 #4



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## ROCKVILLE is RESILIENT

### Letter to All of Our Community:

This is one of those times when we are most fortunate to live in a municipality like the City of Rockville. Every day we witness multiple examples of people coming together to support each other – to reach out to those who need a little extra, to be the human touch – even without touching.

The doors of Rockville City Hall may be closed for now, but that doesn't mean we're closed for business. Our country, our state and our city are facing a challenge like no other, and on behalf of our councilmembers and staff, we want to thank you for your partnership in helping us to fight this pandemic. Our ability to bring "all hands on deck" is due to the willingness of each of you to think about the greater good – to put the health and safety of our community first.

We understand the disappointment in the loss of the ability to use amenities in our parks and the closure of our in-person recreation classes and programs, and we hope that this action will be short-lived. However, as demonstrated by Terri Hilton and her team at the senior center, Rockville's staff is creative and enterprising, and you will soon see more rec and parks classes online to keep us healthy and engaged. Our Rockville City Police Department supported Montgomery County Public Schools to distribute Chromebooks to students so that important learning will continue, and our public works crews continue to provide critical support at our water treatment plant and on our roads.

With tremendous backing from Nicholas Obodo and his IT staff, the Mayor and Council are continuing to conduct the city's business and receive feedback from the public, albeit online. The meetings are now safely conducted virtually, using video-conferencing software. You can still tune in to Rockville 11, and we continue to welcome residents' comments for community forum and public hearings at [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov). (Find more details under "Mayor and Council" on page 2). Three regular meetings were successfully conducted in this manner in March and our schedule for the remainder of the year is expected to stay intact for as long as necessary.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we transition many services to an online format. Please check the city website, at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov), and information provided in this edition of "Rockville Reports" for details on how we can work with you during this time. You can also follow the city on Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the latest city information and ways in which you can help in our community. Sign up for COVID-19 news and updates through our email newsletter at [mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19updates](mailto:mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19updates).

We have been heartened to see the community spirit and the creative ways that Rockville residents and businesses have been pulling together to watch out for and support each other. Caregiver organizations and other volunteers have stepped up and multiplied their service to the community. The city is working closely with MCPS to help assure that food distribution sites for students are working for all our neighborhoods – and Rockville neighbors are holding food drives to support the Rockville Senior Center and Manna Food Center. Recently, restaurants began partnering with customers to donate meals to our health care workers – and our community is coming together to create bear hunts and rainbow sightings for children to spot while on their daily walks.

We have established 15-minute free parking in Town Center and elsewhere to allow customers to quickly pick up food orders, so please continue to support our local businesses.

On behalf of all the Mayor and Council and city staff, we thank you for your patience and support during this challenging time. While the uncertainty of COVID-19 weighs heavily on all of us, it has been inspiring to see how our city has come together. This is why we are a small town in a big city – and you are what makes Rockville so special. Thank you again and please stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

*Bridget Donnell Newton*

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton

*Rob DiSpirito*

City Manager Rob DiSpirito

# The City of Rockville RESPONDS

## What You Need to Know About the City's Response to COVID-19

Rockville City Hall and city facilities will be closed to the public through Friday, April 24, following recently issued state directives for slowing the spread of the new coronavirus, COVID-19.

Employees are conducting as much of the city's operations as possible while maintaining recommended social distancing to ensure the health and safety of city staff and the community. Employees who are able have moved to a telework schedule.

Essential city services will continue throughout this period, including regular trash and recycling collection, water treatment, street repair, water and sewer system repair, building code and fire inspections, animal control, traffic signal repair, and police patrols and emergency response.

Additionally, all city parks remain open to the public, though as a safety precaution, playgrounds and athletic courts are closed for use.

### Closures and Cancellations

See "Check Once, Check Twice," at right, for how to find the latest cancellation informa-

tion from the City of Rockville.

Gov. Larry Hogan has issued an executive order prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people and a stay-at-home order that states that no Maryland resident should leave their home unless it is for an essential job or for an essential reason, such as obtaining food or medicine, seeking urgent medical attention, or for other necessary purposes. For more about the stay-at-home order, visit [bit.ly/2UvD3bk](http://bit.ly/2UvD3bk). Rockville's in-person events, classes, programs, rentals and activities are canceled through Thursday, April 30.

The Recreation and Parks Department is creating live-streamed classes for registered participants. See the online calendar at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) for details, which will be posted as classes are developed.

The facility closure applies to community centers, the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, Rockville Senior Center, Croydon Creek Nature Center, Glenview Mansion, F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Montrose Discovery Preschool.

*continued on pg. 8...*

## Check Once, Check Twice

News about impacts from actions to slow the spread of COVID-19, the new coronavirus, means some uncertainty for activities, programs and events in the City of Rockville. Please check our online resources to see if any information contained in this edition has changed.

For the latest city-related information, follow the City of Rockville on social media (on Nextdoor, Facebook and Twitter), visit our website at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov), or sign up for Alert Rockville.

- Nextdoor: [bit.ly/RKVnextdoor](http://bit.ly/RKVnextdoor)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/cityofrockville](https://facebook.com/cityofrockville)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/rockville411](https://twitter.com/rockville411)
- Alert Rockville: [bit.ly/AlertRockville](http://bit.ly/AlertRockville)

(Note that [bit.ly](http://bit.ly) links are case sensitive.)

Want to know what you can do to help? Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter) and [governor.maryland.gov/marylandunites](http://governor.maryland.gov/marylandunites).

Find a list of resources with up-to-date and trustworthy information at [RockvilleReports.com/resources-and-information-on-covid-19-novel-coronavirus](http://RockvilleReports.com/resources-and-information-on-covid-19-novel-coronavirus).

For general inquiries, call 240-314-8106. ✚

### Hometown Holidays and Memorial Day Festivities Canceled

The Hometown Holidays Music Fest and Rockville's Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade have been canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency.

Rockville's Mayor and Council made the difficult decision March 23 after considering public health guidance and uncertainty over how long state orders to close non-essential businesses will remain in place.

"This is not a decision we made lightly as we know how much our community cherishes our HTH traditions," Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton said. "Public safety is our paramount concern. We thank all who are working to keep the food supply intact, our health care and public safety professionals, and ask everyone to heed the calls for social distancing as we work together to end this pandemic."

The city is exploring event options for later in the year.

### RCPD Continues Service to the City Amid Changes to Some Services

#### Non-emergency Reports to be Taken by Telephone

The Rockville City Police Department has made operational changes that will allow city police to continue serving the city while protecting the health and safety of the Rockville community and police employees during the COVID-19 emergency.

Administrative offices at the police station, 2 W. Montgomery Ave., are closed to the public until further notice, and the following services have been suspended:

- Parking permit registration.
- Animal licensing registrations and renewals. (You can apply for a pet license online at [maps.rockvillemd.gov/forms/pio/petlicense.html](http://maps.rockvillemd.gov/forms/pio/petlicense.html).) RCPD is not issuing fines for pet licenses that have recently expired, or will expire soon, that pet owners are unable to renew due to the COVID-19 emergency. In the meantime,

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- 2** Charter Review Commission Seeks Applicants
- 2** Budget Discussions to Consider COVID-19
- 7** At-home Activities for Earth Day's 50th
- 8** Leaf Collection Schedule

MAYOR & COUNCIL  
111 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, Maryland  
20850-2364

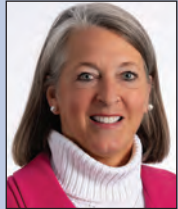
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## Mayor & Council

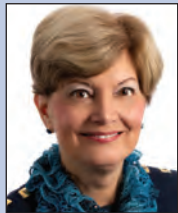
mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



**Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton**  
240-314-8291  
bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Monique Ashton**  
240-314-8293  
mashton@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg**  
240-314-8293  
bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember David Myles**  
240-314-8294  
dmyles@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Mark Pierzchala**  
240-314-8292  
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

**Meetings: Mondays, April 13 at 6 p.m. and April 20 and 27 at 7 p.m. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter). Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed (see below).**

If you wish to submit comments in writing for community forum or public hearings, please email [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) by 2 p.m. on Mondays prior to meeting.

All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website.

To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11), and available a day after each meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

### Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- Mayor and Council meetings are broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11), and available a day after each meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

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### Upcoming Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Calendar

<b>APRIL 13</b>	Work session.
<b>APRIL 17</b>	Close of public record.
<b>APRIL 20</b>	Work session.
<b>MAY 4</b>	Adoption of the FY 2021 Budget.
<b>JULY 1</b>	Start of FY 2021.

## Mayor and Council Continue Work on FY 2021 Budget

The potential fiscal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the city's finances and the economy has led the city manager to consider adjustments to his proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

The Mayor and Council will wind down their budget work in April, in preparation of adoption on Monday, May 4.

City Manager Rob DiSpirito on Feb. 24 presented the Mayor and Council with a \$144.2 million budget proposal that outlines the city's priorities.

The Mayor and Council will devote an April 13 work session to further budget consideration, including potential reductions in proposed FY 2021 spending. The Mayor and Council seek to adopt a budget that responds to the COVID-19 economic impacts while continuing to serve Rockville's residents.

To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings are conducted by teleconference. (See multiple outlets listed at the left on where to tune in.) Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget) to review the proposed budget and offer ideas before the public comment period closes at 5 p.m. Friday, April 17. ❖

## 30 Years of Rockville's Real Property Tax Rates

A look at Rockville's tax rates for Fiscal Years 1990-2020 show that FY 1995 was the last year the city increased its real property tax rate. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax.

FISCAL YEAR	TAX RATE
1990.....	0.339
1991.....	0.332
1992.....	0.328
1993-1994.....	0.323
1995*-1998.....	0.328
1999.....	0.326
2000-2006.....	0.322
2007.....	0.312
2008.....	0.302
2009-2020.....	0.292
*Last increase.	

**Note:** At current assessed property values, each penny on the tax rate is worth about \$1.4 million.

## Residents Sought for Service on Charter Review Commission

The Mayor and Council are seeking Rockville residents to serve on a Charter Review Commission that will review and recommend changes to Rockville's founding document — the charter. The charter, established in 1860 with Rockville's incorporation, is a legal document similar to a constitution that empowers the city to pass ordinances, in accordance with state laws. The document establishes the city's corporate limits and outlines how the city is organized and conducts business, such as the terms and number of elected officials, holding elections, levying taxes, adopting ordinances and providing services.

The commission, which will review specific provisions of the charter and recommend changes, will be comprised of 11 Rockville residents. The commission's work is proposed to begin this summer. It is anticipated that members will meet once or twice per month. Once convened, the commission will solicit resident input.

Interested applicants should submit a resume and expression of interest to the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations by 5 p.m. Monday, May 18. Find more information about the Charter Review Commission, including how to apply, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/102/](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/102/)

Charter-Review-Commission.

Each member of the Mayor and Council will choose one commission member. In addition, the mayor will nominate a commission chair, to be approved by the council. The Mayor and Council together will select and approve five additional members. The chair of the city's Board of Supervisors of Elections will serve as a nonvoting ex officio representative to the commission.

The Mayor and Council will hold at least one public hearing to determine the scope of the commission's work at a date yet to be decided.

The Mayor and Council last appointed a Charter Review Commission in 2012, which made recommendations about the length of elected terms of the Mayor and Council, the number of members on the council, and the schedule by which Mayor and Council elections are held. The commission also identified several ways to enhance voting, including early voting and voting by mail. Find more information about the charter review process, including the charter at [www.rockvillemd.gov/124/City-Code-Charter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/124/City-Code-Charter).

For more information, contact 240-314-8280 or [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov). ❖

### Rockville City Police Department Service Continues

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owners should keep proof of up-to-date vaccination records.

- Fingerprinting services.
- Incident or accident report pickups.
- Animal control violations payments.

Speed, red light and parking tickets may be paid at [www.rockvillemd.gov/318/Transportation-Parking](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/318/Transportation-Parking). Late fees will be waived.

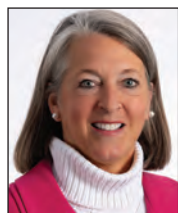
Portions of the police station will remain open 24/7, including the lobby entrance near the visitor parking lot, and the police communications center. Community members in need of in-person assistance are encouraged to practice social distancing. To request non-emergency assistance, call 240-314-8900. In the event of an emergency, call 911.

City police are taking reports by telephone for lower-level and nonviolent crimes. Depending on the nature of the report, callers may be told that an officer will return their call to gather additional information.

The telephone reporting system allows officers to respond to higher-priority calls. Calls involving an immediate emergency or requiring more in-depth investigation will be dispatched as usual.

Police communications operators have begun screening callers by asking questions related to COVID-19. This will help to ensure that officers follow proper protocol and protective measures, preserving the safety of community members and police personnel.

### Live Mayor and Council Meeting Updates on COVID-19



**Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton**

Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton will deliver a livestreamed update before each Mayor and Council meeting, and the meeting itself will include an update by Mark Landahl, Rockville's emergency manager, on the city's COVID-19 response.

The meeting will be conducted by teleconference and be broad-

cast live on Rockville 11 and via livestreaming at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11), and will be available on demand beginning Tuesday at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

Comments for community forum will be accepted in writing. Email [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) by 2 p.m. Monday to submit comments.

Find the Mayor and Council agenda at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter). ❖



**STAY INFORMED:** The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil). Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

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- **Send an email** to [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov).
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Learn more below and find other ways to give of your time and talents at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer).

### Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions).

While some meetings are canceled, other boards and commissions meetings will take place virtually in April. See times and dates, and ways to participate, on the city's online calendar at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov).

The Planning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. April 8 and 22 via teleconference.

### Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Historic District Commission (3 reg./1 alt.)
- Human Rights Comm. (1)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (1)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission (1 tenant/1 tenant alt.)
- Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc. (1)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (2)

For more, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions) or call 240-314-8280.

### Connect with us on Social Media.



**LEARN MORE ON ROCKVILLE 11**  
[www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)

### ► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

**Call 1-866-921-6714**

Email [rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca](mailto:rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca)  
Visit [www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd](http://www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd)  
For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse).



# Help Shape Rockville's Future 2040

## Share your thoughts on: Comprehensive Plan Volume II: Planning Areas Draft

Review the draft at  
[www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040).

**Four ways** to send comments to the Rockville Planning Commission:

1. **Online:** [www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/Rockville2040).
2. **Email:** [planning.commission@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:planning.commission@rockvillemd.gov).
3. **Mail:** Rockville Planning Commission, c/o Larissa Klevan, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Please include with your testimony: name, address, organization (if any), and any applicable planning area(s).

4. Planning Commission public hearings to submit oral testimony will be rescheduled after the summer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: CLARK LARSON AT 240-314-8200.



## Review Process for East Rockville Design Guidelines Expected this Month

The Mayor and Council are expected this month to authorize the formal review process for zoning amendments that, if adopted, will allow implementation of the East Rockville Design Guidelines and Standards.

The project will first be reviewed by the Planning Commission for its recommendation and then move to the Mayor and Council for discussion and possible adoption. The authorization to formally initiate the review of the East Rockville Design Guidelines and Standards is scheduled tentatively for the Mayor and Council's April 20 meeting.

Over the course of a year, residents of East Rockville engaged with city staff and a design consultant to develop design guidelines and standards for the East Rockville

neighborhood. The project is rooted in recommendations from the 2004 East Rockville Neighborhood Plan to retain the unique and diverse physical and natural characteristics of the community.

If adopted, the design guidelines and standards will be a zoning overlay that applies to new single-unit home construction and significant additions to existing homes.

The Mayor and Council received a briefing on the project on Monday, Feb. 24. To view the briefing, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/Agenda](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/Agenda) Center and select the TV icon next to the Feb. 24 meeting.

To review a draft of the East Rockville Design Guidelines and Standards, as well as for updates on meeting dates, visit the project website at [www.rockvillemd.gov/2249](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/2249).

## At-home Activities for Earth Day's 50th

The 50th anniversary of Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22. And while current events prevent us from celebrating this gold anniversary together, there are still ways to celebrate at home.

Follow the city's Croydon Creek Nature Center on Facebook for nature activities to do at home, from nature journaling, to birding to creating a mud kitchen. Staff

from Croydon Creek and from the city's Environmental Management team will present indoor and outdoor activities for a variety of ages.

While the COVID-19 emergency has closed Croydon Creek Nature Center to the public through at least April 30, trails in the John G. Hayes Forest Preserve are available for hiking from dawn to dusk. (Remember



to practice social distancing, remaining 6 feet from others on trails, and don't use the nature play space equipment.)

For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek) or [www.rockvillemd.gov/environment](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment).

And don't forget to visit

[www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters) to sign up for the center's email newsletter for more nature activities and updates on center programs. While you're there, also sign up to receive the city's "Environment and Sustainability" quarterly newsletter to receive environmental news and events and tips for helping the environment year-round in your inbox.

**\$250**  
to clear a simple clog

**\$600**  
to clear a clogged main line

**\$\$\$\$**  
to clean and replace property after a sewage backup

**Toilets aren't trash cans.**

Keep these items out of the bowl to prevent costly clogs

- Sanitary pads and tampons
- "Flushable" wipes and diapers
- Dental floss and whitening strips
- Condoms and bandages
- Cat litter
- Medications
- Cotton swabs
- Hair

**WANT TO SAVE CASH? DON'T FLUSH TRASH...** With many people homebound during the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, one of the last things a household needs is a clogged toilet.

Toilet paper may be in short supply, but make sure alternatives don't find their way into your toilet bowl. Paper towels, "flushable" wipes and antibacterial wipes don't break down in your pipes and can cause costly clogs and sewage backups.

The average cost to unclog a simple toilet blockage runs between \$250-\$500. More severe clogs can cause sewage backups that damage your belongings, your property and even your neighbors' homes, costing you much more (including neighborly goodwill). Clogs in the city's main sewer lines can require even more costly repairs, potentially leading to higher sewer rates and utility bills. Clogs can also damage the environment, causing sewer line backups that overflow into parks and streets, and hurt plants and wildlife.

The good news? Clogs are totally preventable. Just keep trash out of your toilet. Learn more about what you can and can't flush in Rockville at [www.rockvillemd.gov/DontFlushTrash](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/DontFlushTrash).

## THE FACTS ON LEAKS

**10**

percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day

A leaky faucet dripping at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than  
**3,000 gallons** per year

### Did you know?

Minor water leaks account for nearly

**1**

trillion gallons

of wasted water each year and is equal to annual household water use in nearly

**11**

million homes

A shower leaking at  
**10 Drips** per minute wastes more than  
**500** gallons per year

### Repair

leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary

Replace old toilets with WaterSense models & save

**13,000**

gallons of water savings for the average family

Homeowners can save

**10 percent** on their water bills

look for

WaterSense Meets EPA Criteria

EPA

[epa.gov/watersense](http://epa.gov/watersense)

## Stuck at Home for Weeks? Time to Fix a Leak!

With household water leaks found in an estimated 11 million homes, leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency observed national Fix a Leak Week from March 16-22, but homeowners who are staying close to home during the COVID-19 emergency might use that time to hunt down water leaks in their homes. Finding and fixing easily corrected household water leaks from toilets, faucets, showerheads, and outdoor spigots and sprinkler systems, can save you about 10% on your water bills.

Visit [www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week) to learn more about how to detect and fix leaks around the house. You – and your bank account – will be glad you did.

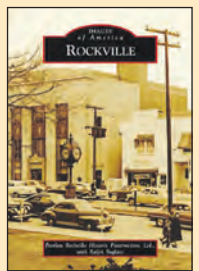
## Peerless Rockville Unveils New Pictorial History of the City

"Images of America: Rockville," a pictorial history book covering the 250-year span of Rockville's development, from preservation nonprofit Peerless Rockville, will be released in April.

Containing many vintage images and some never-before-published photos, the book, part of Arcadia Publishing's extensive "Images of America" series, follows Rockville's growth from a tiny colonial crossroads to its entanglements with slavery and the Civil War, its 20th-century boom as a Washington, D.C., suburb, and its place as one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the nation. The 128-page volume contains more than 200 photos, drawings, maps and other images stitched together with a concise narrative written by volunteer historian Ralph Buglass, a Rockville resident and county native, who speaks frequently on local history topics for Peerless and Montgomery History.

It is available for pre-order at [www.peerlessrockville.org/images-of-america-rockville](http://www.peerlessrockville.org/images-of-america-rockville).

"We are delighted to share this visual overview of Rockville over time, as another way of deepening appreciation of our city's heritage," said Nancy Pickard, executive director of Peerless Rockville.





## Resources for Businesses During the COVID-19 Shutdown

Federal, state and local resources are available to help businesses during the COVID-19 emergency. Rockville Economic Development, Inc., has compiled a list of such resources and more information for businesses at [rockvilleredi.org/covid-19-resources](http://rockvilleredi.org/covid-19-resources).

The webpage includes a link to a state portal with information about business tax questions, guidelines for employers, fair labor standards, insurance claims, opportunities for financial assistance, and statewide closures; and information from the Small Business Administration about disaster assistance.

The Maryland Women's Business Center, an initiative of REDI, is open and remains committed to helping Maryland's businesses stay operational during this uncertain time. MWBC is:

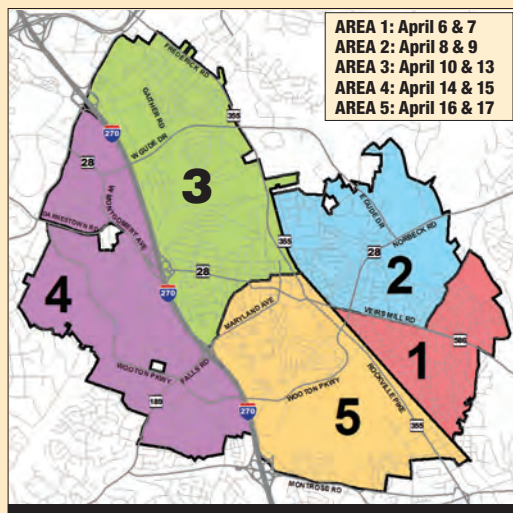
- Offering virtual business counseling via telephone and email.
- Connecting with federal, state and local agencies to stay up to date on available assistance.
- Converting key workshops to online training at [marylandwbc.org/events](http://marylandwbc.org/events).
- Providing refunds to registered workshop participants who are unable to participate due to illness.

For more information about MWBC or Rockville Economic Development, Inc., including one-on-one counseling, call 301-315-8096, or email [admin@rockvilleredi.org](mailto:admin@rockvilleredi.org).

Montgomery County is also highlighting resources for businesses, and has created a Public Health Emergency Grant. Learn more at [montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus-biz.html](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus-biz.html).

Small businesses can find information about U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans and apply at [www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance](http://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance).

To connect information from the state of Maryland, including details about an emergency relief fund for small businesses and manufacturers, visit [businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus](http://businessexpress.maryland.gov/coronavirus).



See interactive map at [www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection).

## Raking News: Leaf Collection in April

The city will vacuum leaves from neighborhood curbs from April 6-17 in five collection areas throughout Rockville.

Unlike the fall leaf collection, which has two collection rounds, city crews make only one pass to collect leaves in spring.

After the collection period ends, use biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans (without plastic garbage bags) to set leaves out on your refuse and recycling collection day.



## Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at [rdispirito@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:rdispirito@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8102.

## Rockville Responds

*continued from pg. 1...*

### No Utility Shut-offs or Late Fees for Rockville Customers During COVID-19 Emergency

Gov. Larry Hogan has issued an emergency order that prohibits electric, gas, water, sewage, phone, cable TV and internet service provider companies from shutting off any residential customer's service, or charging any residential late fees, during the COVID-19 emergency.

If you've recently received a shut-off notice from the City of Rockville, you can disregard it. The city will not be shutting off water and sewer service if you did not meet the payment deadline by March 15. Any utility bills issued after Feb. 15 will not be assessed late fees while the governor's emergency order is in effect.

We encourage paying your bill online in the safety of your home. For assistance, email [utilitybilling@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:utilitybilling@rockvillemd.gov).

### Rockville Senior Center Is Here to Help

While the Rockville Senior Center is closed until further notice, senior services staff are here for you.

Seniors who need assistance can call 240-314-8800, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

## Want to help local Rockville businesses during a tough time?

### Here's how.



Order takeout or pickup (and tip a little extra, if you can afford it).



Buy gift cards online.



Shop at the business's online store.



Leave a positive review.



Share information about the business to social media.



Due to recommendations for social distancing, senior services will be unable to transport seniors on trips to grocery stores or pharmacies. Instead, the senior center's Call and Ride program is available during this crisis to provide taxi coupons to seniors in need of transportation. Seniors, living in the city limits of Rockville, in need of transportation can call 240-314-8810 for assistance.

Please check on your elderly neighbors to see if they need anything. Even a phone call goes a long way toward combating social isolation.

### Access Some City Services from the Comfort of Your Couch

You can still utilize many city services, such as report-

ing concerns, scheduling inspections and making payments, through the city's website. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1897](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1897) for a list.

### Refund Information for Rec and Parks Programs, Events and Activities

Recreational facilities, events, classes, programs, rentals and activities are canceled through Thursday, April 30. Canceled programs, events and rentals will be refunded or credited for future use.

Community center memberships will be extended to account for lost days.

Questions? Contact Recreation and Parks at [registration@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:registration@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8620, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

## Rockville Parks Open; Playground Use Prohibited

While City of Rockville parks will remain open, as a safety precaution, the use of playground equipment and other park amenities is now prohibited.

Signs have been posted at playgrounds throughout City of Rockville parks. Following an order by Gov. Larry Hogan to limit public gatherings to no more than 10 people, lights at Rockville's outdoor courts and sports fields will remain off during evening and nighttime hours. Bathrooms at the city's parks are closed.

As a reminder, while parks remain open, amenities in the parks are closed, including playgrounds, fitness stations, tennis and pickleball courts, basketball, Bankshot and volleyball courts, the skate park at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, and athletic fields for group play.

We ask that parks visitors do not congregate at those amenities and keep to a recommended safe distance from each other of 6 feet or more.

### Connect With Us

See "Check Once, Check Twice," on page 1 for ways to stay in the know.

For general inquiries, call 240-314-8106. 📞

## Rockville Parks During COVID-19

### When you visit the parks:



Keep a safe distance (6 feet or more).



Avoid touching surfaces.



Avoid groups of 10 or more people.



Refrain from touching playground equipment.



Avoid activities that share equipment or involve touching.

[www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov)



Get Into It

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**Rockville Reports** is the official publication of the City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137. Have an idea for "Rockville Reports"? Email [pio@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:pio@rockvillemd.gov).



**KEEP IN THE KNOW WITH COVID-19 INFO ...** Stay current on COVID-19 news and updates with a new email newsletter we've created to deliver information specifically about the coronavirus. What you can expect to receive: Rockville, state and county news; Rockville closures and cancellations; resources on how you can help in the community; and safe and fun activity ideas. Sign up at [mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19updates](http://mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19updates).